

The regular meeting of the Town Assembly of the Village of Arden was held on September 23, 1985, Chairman William Press presiding.

In attendance were:

Beatrice Jaffe	Betty Knott	Ethel Monfort
John Hewlett	Harvey Neal	Barbara Fenske
Fred Amith	Shaul Gladstone	Shari Gallagher-Phalan (NV)
Dan Szurgjlo	Rae Gerstine	Helen Macklem
Charles Salkeld	George Vernon	Connee Wright McKinney
Phyllis Conner (NV)	Greg Condiff	Jim Larsen
Don Holcomb	David Ewing	Mary Trench
Ruth Holcomb	Anne Berlin	Leonard Sophrin (NV)
Sally Hamburger	Charlotte Shedd	Paul Thompson
Eugene Shaw	Jim Semenick	Jim Schwaber
Pat Pyle	Jim Brooks	Bill Press
Pat Liberman	Aaron Hamburger	Patricia Press
Mary Kay Slingwing (NV)	Leon Tanzer	William Theis
Stewart Slingwing (NV)	Tom Colgan	Sally Thurston
Stephen Tanzer	Lee Starr	William Bailey
Pat Patterson	Marge Roberts	Ruthellyn Yates
Cy Liberman	Hugh Roberts	B. Opperman (NV)
Ted Southwell	Bud Bradshaw (NV)	Larry Walker
S. R. Moore	Gail Rinehart	Bob Wynn (NV)
Cecilia Vore	June Kleban	Elizabeth Varley Walker
Tim Moore	Frank Akutowicz	Ron Enie
Clara Dossett (NV)	Edward Rohrbach	John Grimaldi
John Dossett (NV)	Don Berman	

Minutes of the June Assembly were corrected on page 120. The estimate for the special garbage pick-up should read \$1,300. Minutes approved as corrected.

Communications

The Brandywine School District Board of Education will hold a special meeting to discuss the proposed sale of Forwood Jr. High School.

The Brandywine Council of Civic Organizations needs residents to run for officers and committees in order to keep functioning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees - Cy Liberman

We have several matters to report. First, some of the Trust's expenses have gone up. One of these is the town's liability insurance. The premium has more than doubled and is over \$4,000. We were fortunate to get the insurance at any price--our former agent was unable to place the coverage at all. A second item that has increased again is the cost of the annual audit. This year it was about \$1,100.

The Trustees note a change in the domicile rule made by the Board of Assessors. The former wording of the rule provided that leaseholders paid extra for a second or other dwelling unit only if it was income producing. The income producing phrase has been omitted in the current wording and we have to make the so-called domicile charge on bills to every leaseholder who has one or more extra dwelling units, whether rented or not.

A garbage charge would unfairly tax the smaller leaseholds. Shaul Gladstone, as a Trustee, would be unwilling to hide this charge in a single tax bill. He feels it is an illegal move and would be challenged by the I.R.S. If it is billed separately it would not be a deductible item.

Rebuttal:

The garbage charge represents 22% of the land rent and should be shared equally across the board. We must consider the modern world to be realistic.

Decision:

The matter should be decided through the referendum process. A motion to add an alternative assessment proposal to the November referendum will be proposed under New Business.

Budget - Ruth Holcomb

Because of the tax increase this year, the Grand Total Expenses for 1985/86 are much higher than was anticipated in last year's budget proposal. In addition, expenses for the heating system for the Buzz Ware Village Center (\$2,000), higher costs for liability insurance for the town (\$2,000) and the audit (\$500) were not expected. These expenses led to a much greater deficit than was expected. Therefore, the committee recommends a leaner budget for the 1986/87 year in order to build up the town reserve.

With the cooperation of the Civic Committee, the committee recommends no budget figure for roads, commons and forests. The Civic Committee will have \$40,000 for operating expenses; \$34,122 in their reserve fund plus \$7,000 from Delaware Municipal Street Aid. This is a one-time proposal which in effect transfers money from the Civic Committee Reserve to the Town Reserve. Since money budgeted to the Civic Committee, but not spent, will no longer be put into the Civic Reserve, this reserve will not build up as it has over the past several years. This move would create a surplus of \$11,700 in this year's budget proposal.

The proposed total of budgetable expenses for 1986/87 is \$54,800. The 1985/86 figure is \$72,700.

Changes in the budget proposal:

- Moved and seconded that the donation to the Arden Library be raised from \$100 to \$300 (the 1985/86 figure). Motion passed.
- Moved and seconded that \$250 of the \$750 budgeted for a donation to the fire company be allotted to Hanby Corners. Motion passed.
- Moved and seconded that the \$1,000 for special clean-up be raised to \$1,500. Laxton charges by the load and this is a more realistic estimate. Budget Committee wants to encourage the Civic Committee to keep down the amount of trash people put out. Civic Committee will advise people to limit their trash but cannot control the amount entirely. Motion passed.
- Moved and seconded that \$2,000 for the BWVC heating system be included as a line item in the budget. The June Town Assembly approved this amount as a loan from the town reserve fund and stipulated that it be added to the 1986/87 budget. This will not change the total of the reserve but move it from the surplus (deficit) column into the budgeted expenses. Motion passed.

We note that the assessors are proposing that the cost of the town's trash and garbage collection service be made a separate charge, not included in the land rent computation as in the past. The town's attorney advises us that this legally can be done-- but he thinks it may open up a can of worms in proposals to separate other charges. The Trustees have grave misgivings about a service charge. We know we have the authority to collect land rent but we are not comfortable about collecting a service charge. We hope the meeting will retain the present system and reject the separate charge.

On financial matters, we are ready to pay the county and school taxes later this week. The amount due is \$115,276--the highest amount ever in Arden's history. You have the quarterly financial statement which shows how we stand on expenditures so far this fiscal year.

And now I have a personal announcement to make. I have a birthday coming up on Friday and I will be 75. I plan to give myself a present by handing in my resignation as a trustee and relieving myself of a weighty responsibility. I think the village needs to renew its leadership with younger people, that 75 is a good retirement age, and that I have served long enough. I thank you all for the opportunity to have served. It has been an honor to represent Arden. I'm not going anywhere and I will certainly continue to be active in village affairs, particularly as a member of the Village Center Committee.

Audit - Jim Schwaber

This year's audit, by Corchran and Goldman, is complete. Our net expenses were below budget; no money was spent by contingencies, Community Planning, and Buzz Ware Village Center. Safety and Registration Committees were under budget. However, we had a deficit of \$7,407. The current reserve fund is \$9,231.

Assessors - Bill Press

The Board of Assessors met in August with members Falco, Grimaldi, Holcomb, Press and Shaw attending. The vote to leave the report as filed was four in favor, one abstaining.

There were three main questions asked of the Assessors concerning the garbage charge in their June, 1985 report:

- 1) Is this legal? Yes. What is being done is the "pass through" of a service charge--a service being provided for each leasehold. There is a distinct difference here compared to the money collected for the common good such as the payment of county and school taxes and/or upkeep of town property.
- 2) Would this still be tax deductible? As long as leaseholds are billed as a single item the total would be tax deductible. (both of the above answers are correct in the opinion of an attorney)
- 3) Is this a drastic change in the Arden Single Tax idea? No. It's an effort to better fit the Arden idea to modern living.

Discussion:

Concerns:

There must be a connection between land rent and land value. A garbage charge would violate the single tax concept. Outside influences should have no bearing on the way taxes are collected, that is a budgetary matter.

- Moved and seconded that \$5,000 be added to the budget for a matching grant from the Bicentennial Improvement Fund. The June Town Assembly approved the BWVC Committee request for up to \$5,000 for the heating system and the matching fund grant. The Advisory Committee recommended that we budget \$5,000 for the matching fund. The bicentennial improvement fund requires a 50/50 match and can be used for rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of community buildings and grounds. The fund cannot be used for the heating system, that money is already contracted. We are not yet sure of the exact guidelines for the fund's use as the applications are not yet out, but we must budget the matching funds if we hope to apply. This item must be carefully explained in the referendum. Motion passed.
- Barbara Fenske, Arden Page Editor, moved to reduce the donation to the Arden Page from \$250 to \$150, she is not sure she can publish the Page as often as in the past due to a lack of news items. Motion not seconded.

Budget accepted as amended. Total budgetable expenses are \$57,500.

Buzz Ware Village Center - Cy Liberman

The committee is pleased to report that a new heating system is being installed in the Village Center in accordance with the many decisions on that subject made at the last town meeting. The committee obtained bids after having specifications prepared and awarded the contract in August to Joseph Frederick & Sons. That firm has since installed the piping and two new boilers for the system and is awaiting delivery of the convection units, which are large baseboard heating units, with which to finish the system.

The contract price for this work is \$23,360. Adding the cost of carpentry work and supervision, we expect the entire project will cost \$26,500.

To finance this work we are receiving \$18,000 from the Wilmington Montessori Association. This includes \$3,000 in advance payments on the regular contributions the association makes for maintenance of the building, plus \$15,000 in other money. The difference between the \$18,000 and the total needed, the estimated \$26,500, is \$8,500. We will use \$6,500 from the Village Center maintenance reserve fund and will borrow the balance of \$2,000 from the reserve fund of the Village of Arden. This \$2,000 will, as you know, be in the town budget and we hope it will be approved in the referendum as a one-time town expenditure.

In obtaining the \$18,000 we made changes in the cooperation agreement as authorized by the Town Assembly on July 8. The agreement is available for inspection. These are the changes;

1) The agreement is extended for five years to July 1, 1996. It will be extended for another five years unless either party gives written notice before July 1, 1994.

2) Neither party has the right to terminate the agreement during the first five year extension period.

3) If Arden elects to terminate in 1996, capital expenditures during the final two years will be made only if reasonable required and any unspent balance in the maintenance fund, consisting of payments from the association, will be refunded to the association.

4) The schedule of payments to the fund from the Montessori Association has been changed to provide a level payment of \$7,925 per year from now until July 1, 1990. During the two years following that date, the payment will increase in accordance with a formula using the consumer price index. Then in 1992 the payments will resume as provided in the agreement in effect before these changes were made.

5) The agreement was further amended in one item to substitute this wording: "Wilmington Montessori Association agrees that it will not increase the enrollment to greater than 150 full-time equivalent students with no more than 180 different students using the facility in any one day." In that connection, the association reported today that current enrollment at the School totals 139 different students, of whom nine are residents of the three Ardens. In addition, the school has 39 children at the YWCA in Ardentown.

The five changes are in an amendment to the cooperation agreement signed by officials of Arden and the association on August 8.

On another matter, we are seeking a state grant from the Bicentennial Improvement Fund approved recently by the state legislature. The Advisory Committee recommended that the town provide \$5,000 in matching funds with which we hope to get an equal amount in a state grant, for a total of \$10,000 to be used for conservation improvements including insulation, roofing and grounds improvements. We will be pleased to receive suggestions on how best to use that possible \$10,000.

Additional Report--Buzz Ware Village Center Committee - Connie McKinney

While we are also pleased that the new baseboard heating system is being installed and hope for its completion soon, the minority voice on this committee feels that the town has paid a dear price for it.

1) The Wilmington Montessori Association will remain the primary user of the Buzz Ware Village Center until 1996. Before negotiations, their contract would have expired in 1991. Unless the town acts and initiates termination of the contract in 1994, the Association will remain in the building until 2001.

2) There will be no increase in the money the Association pays to the Maintenance Fund for five years. Their payment will be frozen at \$7,925 until July 1, 1990. Out of this money, \$475 per month is allotted to Mr. Bratten for daily cleaning of the school and \$161 per month goes into the Fund for long-term and short-term maintenance.

This year's (July, 1985-July, 1986) maintenance portion is already gone. It has been used to help pay for the heating system. This fund is used for immediate expenditures, like cleaning supplies, but has also been used for special bathroom clean-up (\$120) and for lightbulbs (over \$100).

Unless a more stringent interpretation of reimbursable expenses to the Association is used, the fund could be inadequate for repair work that might need to be done (i.e. frozen pipes, roof leaks, electrical wiring problems, etc.).

3) The residents of Arden will also be asked to approve an additional \$2,000 in the budget to help pay for the heating system.

4) There are also hidden costs to the Town involved here as well. Bear in mind that the Town pays for snow removal at the Center and approximately two-thirds of the Playground Committee's

time and 50% of the Committee's budget are spent on care of the Sherwood Green. The Town also has to insure the building and the grounds. The residents pay for that too.

The minority voice on this Committee brings these points to the Town's attention not because they will have any bearing on the current agreement--that is fait accompli. But to urge the Town Meeting to plan for the future.

We recommend that a Community Use Committee be selected to research way the Town could use, and finance use of, the Village Center. This Committee should report annually to the Town on the results of their ongoing research.

In addition, we recommend that no extension of the Wilmington Montessori Association contract be allowed unless that extension is approved by a majority at two consecutive Town Meetings in 1994.

Discussion:

Corrections to the minority report:

Since Mr. Bratten, the custodian, is on half-pay during the summer, about \$700 of that amount will be available for maintenance. We have not exhausted the reserve fund but are holding back \$2,500 for maintenance.

Though WMA payments will be frozen for a few years, there will be a specified increase in payments after that time.

Concerns:

Why should we give back maintenance fund money if the contract is cancelled? This agreement was part of the original contract. It was never Arden's intent to amass money this way. The committee would make sure that all necessary repairs are done during the last two years of the contract. This clause protects WMA from frivolous use of the maintenance fund.

The committee was asked to promise that the maintenance fund will be adequate to maintain the building in the future. Cy replied that that is the committee's intent. If a problem arises, they will renegotiate.

Ruth Holcomb voiced objection to using the matching fund grant money for the BWVC. The building should be maintained by WMA money.

Civic - Gail Rinehart

Some of the work contracted for the summer has been completed. What remains is primarily the paving and storm lines. The contractor we had is apparently out of business. Woody and I have a meeting scheduled on October 2 with another contractor.

Noone is interested in "small jobs". It was suggested that the three Ardens could cooperate and have enough work to interest a contractor.

There was a meeting between the Civic Committee and the Arden Club to discuss problems related to erosion on both the overflow parking lot and what we refer to as The Memorial Grove (Beer Garden). We appreciate the clean-up effort by the Club on the bank just below the parking lot. It needs to be made clear to Arden residents that the erosion occurring in this area is caused by town water; therefore, we are primarily responsible for, in liaison with the Club, for coming up with possible solutions.

We are going with heavier wood for our road signs in hopes of eliminating some losses.

We are fortunate to have our previous contractor for snow removal again. If you have problems, please call me.

Garbage Contract - Paul Thompson

Laxton will pick up the garbage twice a week behind the house for \$38,000. Curbside service would be \$36,500. Laxton will not do a once a week pick-up claiming the garbage would be too heavy. No one else will do behind-the-house pick-up. Bandurski, the only other garbage collector to submit a bid, was \$8,000 higher than Laxton.

Community Planning - Cecilia Vore

Members of the committee have been meeting throughout the summer with representatives of Ardencroft, Ardentown, and Windy-bush to oppose intensive development of the YMCA property at Harvey Rd. and I-95. We will have an update on the situation later in the meeting.

Along the same lines, Marcia Avery has submitted a plan for 22 houses between Arden and the Sherwood Green development. The proposal was reviewed by the Subdivision Advisory Committee of New Castle County on July 22. Frank Akutowicz attended the meeting. There is no official route for public comment on this development since it falls within the current zoning. However, we have the plans here tonight and Frank can answer specific questions.

The committee feels that enforcement of Ordinance #13 (the off-street parking ordinance) is not an appropriate task for a planning committee and later on in the meeting, we will introduce a motion to shift this responsibility to another, more appropriate committee.

Beverly Barnett, whose family has been transferred to Switzerland, resigned from the committee. Although she served for only a short time, Beverly was a valuable member and a source of energy for the entire committee. She will truly be missed. Fortunately, we have an excellent replacement--Sandra Hurlong. Sandra was the "first runner-up" at the last election and has served on the committee in the past. She has graciously agreed to serve again.

Discussion on the Brookview Development Plan (The Avery property):

The Department of Public Works objected to the plan because of the drainage problem but has not rejected it. Frank Akutowicz has expressed Arden's concern about the matter to DPW but they have not responded.

Would the Brandywine Conservancy take up this cause? Conservation groups are usually more interested in working on larger areas.

Moved, seconded and passed that Frank Akutowicz compose a letter opposing the Woodview Development. This letter should go to all appropriate parties.

Playground - Larry Walker

During the past three months, the required playground inspections were made. Additional mulch was added where needed, and any necessary repairs were made. A special inspection was made in late August right before the Arden Fair. The Committee felt that such an inspection would better protect the Town's interests if there were an accident involving someone from outside the Town

while using the playground equipment.

If there are any suggestions on the type of playground equipment that should be added, please contact any member of the Playground Committee. We are exploring types of equipment that might be added to the existing swings, jungle gyms, and sliding boards.

Registration - Sally Hamburger for Virginia Shaw

The current count of eligible voters is 385.

The committee urges all voters to vote promptly in the upcoming referendum to avoid nagging from the committee.

Safety - Tom Colgan

The committee met once since the last Town Assembly.

The sign erection campaign continues unabated. However, two Stop signs were stolen from the corner of Orleans and Millers Rd., one a newly erected sign. Once has since been replaced. These signs are costly. This year the committee has spent about \$900 on signs and installation. We will be installing signs on lumber posts instead of metal. This is cheaper and better looking. At the request of the Town Watch Committee, we have acquired Town Watch signs and will shortly install them at the entrance roads to Arden. We have also acquired, at the request of the Civic Committee, two traffic barriers for use in marking disturbances on the roads.

Two robberies in Arden were reported to the police.

The committee wishes the Assembly to know of its strong opposition to the proposed ordinance change making the Safety Committee responsible for enforcing off-street parking. The Civic Committee might be a more appropriate committee.

The committee considered the current need for a paid constable and decided that the relative tranquility of the town does not require one, nor do we have the budget.

Don Berman, first runner-up in the last election, is now a member of the committee, replacing Stuart Raynolds who has moved from town.

The Assembly observed a moment of silence in memory of Dora Johnson who died in September.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion to grant an exemption from ordinance #13 to 1802 and 1804 Millers Rd. on lot #51 (Little Arden) was lifted from the table.

Discussion:

Community Planning - Cecilia Vore and Ed Rohrbach

Although the exemption of Little Arden may have been intended by the original framers of this ordinance, this was not stated. The committee can only deal with the ordinance as written. Several on-property parking plans are feasible.

- clustered parking for all renters where the 2 cars from 1806 are now parked, at the corner of Millers and The Sweep.
- angled parking between 1802 and 1804.
- space at the outside end of 1802.

Cars can be accommodated on the lot without undue expense or inconvenience. The cars can be hidden behind the hedge, improving Arden's esthetics and safety. Granting this exemption would set a precedent for future exemption requests.

Opposition:

- Creating parking spaces on these small lots would ruin their beauty which we all enjoy. It would interfere with the leaseholders' quality of life.
- Safety Committee feels the present parking situation represents no safety hazard. The cars are parked off the road on the right-of-way.
- The committee needs to concentrate on others who have not complied with the ordinance and do create a hazard; i.e. the Donovan property at the corner of Meadow and Harvey and the Showard property at Hillside and Orleans.

Motion passed.

Harvey Road Improvement Report

Community Planning Report - Cecilia Vore

Consensus Recommendations

The Community Planning Committee feels that Harvey Road should not become a more divisive cultural and physical barrier in our historic community that it already is. With this in mind, the following recommendations are made:

- 1) Improvements made to Harvey Road's surface and drainage be engineered in a manner that will NOT encourage more and faster traffic.
- 2) Harvey Road should continue to follow the natural contours of the land. We oppose major cuts and fills, more pavement, and widening the right-of-way.
- 3) The traffic control system at Harvey and Veale need not be changed.
- 4) We oppose the addition of curbs and gutters. Chestnut Street and Route 100 are proper guttering models for the shoulders on Harvey Road; they have well-maintained surface drains of riprap and stone.
- 5) We request and appreciate continued involvement with the DOT in all stages of planning and decision making regarding Harvey Road.

Action. In addition to the above points, these are our requests for action by state agencies.

- 1) Institute a regular DelDOT maintenance program for the existing ditches.
- 2) Maintain speed limit signs so limits can be enforced.
- 3) If and when resurfacing is necessary, create an absorbent subbase without changing the natural contours of the road. Then, resurface with a mixture (such as Open Grade Hot Mix or porous asphalt) which infiltrates water and reduces chances of hydroplaning and icing.
- 4) Ask the State Police to implement more speed checks.

Civic Committee Report

- 1) We need to work constructively with the county when we are given the opportunity for input; otherwise the Highway Dept. will proceed without Arden's input.
- 2) Use the existing 1972 Harvey Road Study Committee report as a guideline.
- 3) Consult with the residents of "no-mans-land", they should have input also.
- 4) Widen the existing 27 foot road 3 feet on either side. This would pave the existing 33 foot right-of-way.
- 5) Put in concrete gutters.
- 6) Smooth out the dips in the road and lessen the bend at Orleans Road.
- 7) Divert water into Perkins Run.

- The Community Planning Consensus Report has been passed by the other two Ardens.

Moved and seconded: That Town Assembly approve the Community Planning Committee's consensus recommendations and plan of action.

Discussion:

Con:

- Objections were raised about the statistics used by the committee in making their decisions. The ratio of vehicle trips per accident, which allowed the Dept. of Transportation to declare Harvey Rd. a safe road, is invalid on such a short strip of road. The statistics are also selective, having been compiled during 1982-84. Other years present a different picture. The road has not gotten safer.
- Widening the roadway by 6 feet will not threaten our cultural ties.
- If we do not approve limited improvement to the road, the State Highway Dept. will plan their own improvements without Arden's input.

Pro:

- The plan of action is no action. If the road is improved and smoothed out, speeds will rise and safety will decrease.
- The Highway Dept. is not pushing to improve this road.

Motion passed: 23 aye, 11 nay.

Moved by Community Planning Committee and seconded: Section #4 of ordinance #13 be amended to read "The Safety Committee shall administer this ordinance".

Discussion:

Pro: The Community Planning Committee is a planning committee, not an implementing agency.

Con: Safety Committee is unwilling to take on this task; the issue has nothing to do with safety. Civic Committee would be a logical enforcement agency; it already deals with removing unlicensed cars.

This ordinance amendment requires three readings before action can be taken. It must be read and discussed at the January and March Assemblies.

Nominations for Advisory Chairman

Since Alton Dahl has been transferred to Switzerland, we need to elect a Chairman to serve until the March elections.

Nominated by the Advisory Committee: Donald Berman & Ethel Monfort.
Nominated from the Assembly floor: Ron Enie and Bill Press.

Donald Berman elected Advisory Chairman.

YMCA Development Report

The Baldini proposal now consists of 86 units, selling for approximately \$1000,000 each, clustered in front of the stream. Baldini proposes to deed the back part of the property to Ardencroft as parkland. The Planning Department will go along with this plan; Windybush and Ardencroft have approved with some reservations. Ardentown is opposing the entire plan.

Do we want a better configuration? Fewer dwellings to minimize traffic? Are the houses too close to Ardencroft? To the power lines? Will they cause disturbance to the creek bed? These are all questions to be asked. The point to consider is, shall we work with Baldini and negotiate these points or do we want to oppose the plan entirely? We have no guarantee that the next developer will offer something better.

The Community Planning Committee recommends accepting the plan and negotiating with the developer.

Moved and seconded: That we accept the revised plan and instruct the Community Planning Committee to negotiate with the developer, using the town attorney.

Discussion:

Pro: Frank Akutowicz thinks the builder will listen to our concerns. He proposes that we suggest 60 units and settle for 72.

Con: It is important to look at the traffic impact of 86 units, especially since we voted against the improvement of Harvey Rd. Why can't the three Ardens get together and buy the property?

Moved and seconded: The Town of Arden opposes Mr. Baldini's August 27, 1985 proposal and authorizes the Community Planning Committee to negotiate with all parties to minimize the intensity of development of the YMCA property.

Motion passed.

Nominations for Board of Assessors

Bill Press	John Hewlett
Ron Enie	Fred Smith
Harold Monfort	Gene Shaw
John Grimaldi (later declined)	Greg Condiff
Temma Tanzer	Tom Colgan (later declined)
Mary Irons	John Dossett
Ruth Holcomb	Bill Theis
Bernard Brachman	Bill Bailey
	Gail Rinehart (later declined)

Moved and seconded that future Town Assemblies will begin at 7:30 PM.

Motion passed.

Moved and seconded that the following be submitted to referendum, together with the rates adopted by the June 24, 1985 Board of Assessors report:

- 1) All references to the separate charge of \$178/leasehold, and all related language, shall be deleted.
- 2) The rate for the "first 6,500 sq. ft." shall be \$61.05, representing a 15.8% rise over last year.
- 3) The rate for the "above 6,500 sq. ft." shall be \$37.25, representing a 15.8% rise over last year.
- 4) All numbers in the original assessors' report shall be changed to conform to items 2 and 3.

Discussion:

Pro:

The garbage factor raises taxes on small lots by 66%. The legality of the situation and the precedent are questionable. The Board of Assessors does not have the power to change the method of assessment. The fee is not related to land value; we will lose the ability to deduct the trash fee on our income tax.

Con:

The idea of a garbage factor was proposed at open assessors' meetings. The proposal is not illegal, just an adjustment to modern times. It is fair to allot the cost of trash removal evenly since it is a service to each leasehold regardless of size. It is more important to do what is best for the town than to have a tax deduction.

This motion requires a 2/3 vote of Town Assembly in order for it to appear on the referendum. If passed, we must explain it carefully on the ballot to avoid confusion.

Motion passed: 19 aye, 8 nay.

GOOD AND WELFARE

- It was strongly recommended that dog walkers use a pooper scooper on town paths and right-of-ways. It was even more strongly recommended that people not let dogs run loose.

Sarah H Amlurger